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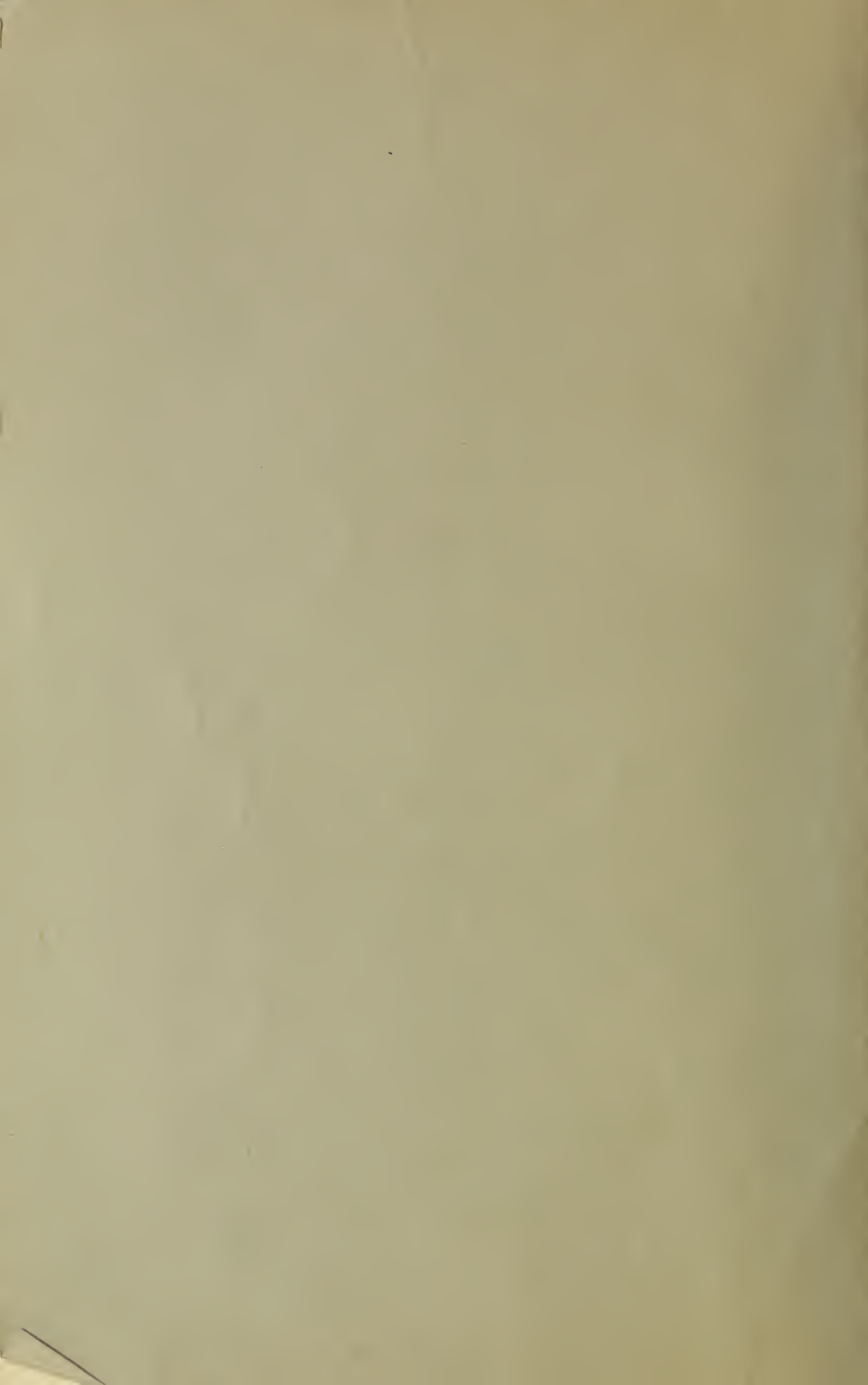
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Edna Earl Parrott

# History of Poplar Creek Baptist Church

By  
Mrs. H. B. Parrott  
1930

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RALEIGH  
BYNUM PRINTING COMPANY  
1930



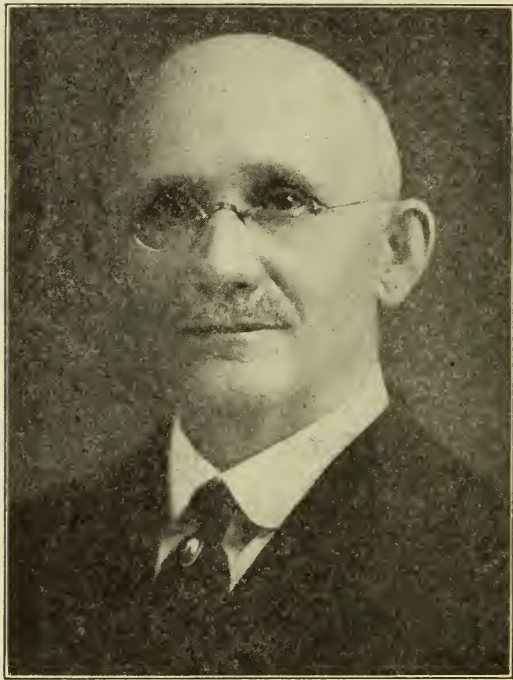
# History of Poplar Creek Baptist Church

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W. R. CULLOM

5/19/32

Flower

## A PERSONAL WORD

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It was in October, 1896, that I first came to Poplar Creek Church. It was at the same time that I was beginning my work at Wake Forest College as Professor of Bible. For six and a half years I came to this church once a month from the college and enjoyed a most happy fellowship with them.

In the spring of 1921 they asked me to come back to them as supply for a time or two. This "time or two" has grown into a continuous service of almost ten years. From the standpoint of getting on together there is no reason that I know of why this service might not be continued indefinitely. A new generation has grown up, it is true, but they are my friends, and it would be a joy to carry on with this new generation for ten years more. But life does not move now as it did in 1896, nor as it did in 1921. Once a month preaching by an absentee pastor is no longer to be tolerated. Let us hope that soon our country churches will see to it that their services are brought into harmony with the movements of the new day. With the multiplied and multiplying demands upon my time, I do not feel that a further continuance of this relationship (pleasant as it is) could at all meet the demands of the present situation. Under these circumstances I am withdrawing from this pastorate in the hope that soon the church may see its way to readjustments that will more adequately meet the demands of the hour.

Mrs. H. B. Parrott wrote the history of the church several years ago and read it on an anniversary occasion. It was read again in connection with the Fellowship meeting on November 2 of the present year. This history, along with the present roll of the church, is printed and given to the congregation in the hope that it may prove to be a stimulus to yet better things among the generation that is now in charge and among the generation that is coming on.

It would be pleasant to call many names and to deal in numerous personal reminiscences with reference to men and

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women and children who have wrought nobly. Many of them have passed to their eternal home, and, though they are dead, they still speak. Such personal mention, however, would either be so inadequate as to misrepresent the facts in the case, or would draw out the length of the introduction far beyond that of the history. Hard as it is, therefore, to do so, I refrain from all such reminiscing.

My tender love and abiding interest will follow these good people, irrespective of name or creed, so long as they and I shall live. They have all been exceedingly kind and thoughtful of me, and my gratitude to them will be as genuine as has been their beautiful devotion, and as lasting as life.

Blessings on each of them!

W. R. CULLOM.

December, 1930.



# WE WALK BY FAITH

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I know not what awaits me,  
 God kindly veils mine eyes,  
 And o'er each step of my onward way,  
 He makes new scenes to rise;  
 And every joy He sends me,  
 Comes a sweet and glad surprise.

One step and I see before me,  
 'Tis all I need to see.  
 The light of heaven more brightly shines,  
 When earth's illusions flee;  
 And sweetly through the silence came  
 His loving, "Follow me!"

O blissful lack of wisdom,  
 'Tis blessed not to know;  
 He holds me with His own right hand,  
 And will not let me go,  
 And lulls my soul to rest  
 In Him who loves me so.

So on I go not knowing,  
 I would not if I might;  
 I'd rather walk in the dark with God  
 Than go alone in the light;  
 I'd rather walk by faith in Him  
 Than go alone by sight.

CHURCH COVENANT

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Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, back-biting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

## HISTORY OF POPLAR CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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About eighty years ago in the '50's, there stood about twenty yards south of this church a large log building. There was a rock chimney at one end, and on one side an aperture was left between the logs to admit light and air, for there were no glass windows. Rude benches were on the inside and also a huge fireplace which heated the building in winter.

This log structure was probably built for a church, but was used for a schoolhouse as well. A few devout Baptists who lived in this community, and who were members of the log church, met here for worship. The church was not strong enough to support a pastor, so preachers from other churches were sometimes invited and they preached occasionally. Rev. Mr. Spivey was one of these early preachers; Rev. W. H. Jordan another. Rev. Patrick Smith, of Tabb's Creek, a Baptist church about five miles away, also came over and held services now and then. Prayer meetings were also held. A Miss Polly Paschall took active part in this work.

In the late '50's the church became very inactive for a few years. Efforts were made to get it on a stronger footing, and to build a new house, but without avail.

Finally, in the year 1858, a series of revival meetings, conducted by Rev. Moses Baldwin, were held at Tabb's Creek, of which Rev. T. J. Horner was pastor. Many additions were made to the church, several being from this community. One of the results of these meetings was the decision to take over Poplar Creek Church and establish a branch of Tabb's Creek Church at this place. This was done, and some of the members of Tabb's Creek who lived nearby came over to this church. In those days when there were no good roads and few conveyances, traveling was a difficult matter, therefore churchgoing was made more convenient by the establishment of the branch church.

Plans for the new church were soon formulated and work was begun early in the next year. Some of the men most instrumental in establishing the branch church were John W. Barnes, Hilman Barnes, 'Squire S. S. Hicks, L. R. Parham, John H. Wright, Joe Clark, Elba Parrish, Bevel Ellington, Thomas Patterson and William Mangum. John H. Wright and Bazzel Burroughs gave the land for the church. Bazzel Burroughs furnished the timber which his negroes sawed with whipsaws. Hamilton Hester contracted for the building and his son, Ben Hester, did the work.

The house built in 1859 is the same in which we worship today. There have been a few changes and repairs made from time to time. At first there was a space left behind the pulpit for the colored members, for during slavery time many negroes belonged to the white churches. In 1868 the church was ceiled and plastered. Later, in 1878, a baptistry was built in the church, but was discontinued after a few years. The roof, too, has been changed.

The church was dedicated in 1860. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. J. B. Solomon, of Warrenton. A large crowd was present for the occasion. Some rode horseback, others came on wagons and many afoot. There were only a few buggies in those days. It was not unusual to see a woman riding to church behind a man, on the same horse. Horse blocks were on each side the church yard near the road which was then termed the "Ridge Path." And this "path" in both directions was bordered on each side by thick woods; for there was little cleared land in the immediate vicinity of the church. The women present at the dedication were dressed in the hoopskirts and bonnets of the '60's.

The trying days of the Civil War came on and some of the members shouldered their guns and went away. Among them were George W. Wright, Hilman Barnes, John W. Barnes, and J. L. Wright. They went away members of the branch church, but when they returned Poplar Creek had become an independent church.

During the war, on the first Sunday in February, 1863, Poplar Creek Meeting House, as it was then called, severed its connection with Tabb's Creek and became an independent body.

Prior to this time all the business had been transacted at the latter place—all the conferences held there. Rev. E. F. Beachum and Rev. William Royall, of Wake Forest, drew up the church covenant and helped organize the independent church of Poplar Creek. It was named Poplar Creek because of a small, nearby stream bearing that name, in which the baptizing was done for a while.

The first or charter members of the independent church organized in 1863 were the following:

Bevel Ellington	Amanda Ellington
John H. Wright	S. C. Wright
Elba Parrish	Harriet Wright
Thomas Patterson	Elizabeth Turner
S. S. Hicks	Malison Barnes
J. W. Barnes	Jane Barnes
J. L. Wright	Mary Wiggins
H. Barnes	Nancy Lloyd
G. W. Wright	Mary E. Ellington
L. A. Wiggins	Sophia Wright
A. Strum	Lucy Wright
L. Lloyd	Nancy Fleming
W. P. Mangum	Lucy Fleming
C. G. Patterson	Fannie Fleming
Thos. Ellington	Sallie Hester

The first pastor was Rev. E. F. Beachum; the first officers were S. S. Hicks and L. R. Parham, deacons; Elba Parrish, clerk; John W. Barnes, treasurer; John H. and John L. Wright, collectors.

The Barnes, Wrights and Parhams figured prominently in the organization and work of the church in its early history.

From the establishment of the church until now preaching services have been held most of the time on the first Sunday in each month and conference on the preceding Saturday. A good many years ago for a short period services were held on the fourth Sundays. At first the hour for the Saturday's conference was 9 o'clock in the morning, but was later changed to the afternoon. Those who wished to unite with the church



usually presented themselves at the Saturday conference. Before and during the war many colored people, as well as white, joined in this way. In the early records frequent mention is made of slaves belonging to different men of the community presenting themselves for church membership.

We also find in the early records frequent accounts of members being arraigned before the church for being delinquent in their church duties. Regular attendance, paying of dues, and proper conduct were three things required of every member.

Rev. J. L. Carroll was the second pastor. He began serving the church in 1866. During his pastorate the first association at Poplar Creek was held in August, 1866.

Rev. J. A. Stradley was the next pastor, serving the church from 1868 till 1875.

Rev. F. R. Underwood came next, being pastor from '78 until some time in the '80's. While he was pastor, in the year 1877, we first have mention made of women taking active part in the church work. Harriet Wright and Lucy Barnes were appointed as committee to make collections for State Missions; Mrs. J. W. Barnes, Betty Clarke, and Polly Ellington, Foreign Missions.

The first Sunday School held at this church was conducted by Major Parham. He taught the catechism and Bible. No Sunday School literature like that we have today was then used. Later on in the '70's there was a large Sunday School. As many as eighty-one were enrolled in the year 1878, according to an old book kept by S. Otho Wilson, who was Sunday School secretary at that time.

During the '80's Dr. R. H. Marsh became pastor and served the church until 1894. In the year 1886 the first trustees of the church were appointed by Dr. Marsh. They were R. R. Callis, William McCann, J. T. Barnes, J. L. Capps, J. W. Fleming.

About this time the church was resealed and new benches or pews put in.

The Association was held at Poplar Creek for the second time in the year 1888. Associations in those days were largely attended and were great events in the life of the community as well as in the life of the church.

It is interesting here to note that Mr. George Wright bought of Mr. Basser Burroughs thirty sheep for the Association. These he retailed to the members.

Charles T. Ball was granted license to preach, at Poplar Creek, on the first Sunday in September, 1889. He is the only minister of the Gospel that has gone out from this church. Dr. Ball has become very prominent in the work of the Baptist denomination.

Dr. March resigned in 1894 and Rev. T. B. Hill became pastor, serving two years. He was followed by Rev. W. R. Cullom, who preached his first sermon at Poplar Creek on October 4, 1896. During his pastorate a library was purchased for the church, and a schoolhouse was built on the church grounds by the church. Dr. Cullom was instrumental in having the school built and in securing teachers.

Rev. Mr. Cullom resigned at the close of the year 1902, and Rev. A. D. Hunter became pastor, serving the church not quite three years. Rev. Herman T. Stevens came next. He was pastor about two years, accepting the work in the spring of 1906 and serving until September, 1908. In 1909 Rev. J. A. Stradley the second time became pastor, preaching a little more than a year.

Rev. E. R. Nelson accepted the pastorate in 1911 and served the church two years. While he was pastor, in the year 1913, the Association was held at Poplar Creek for the third time. After his resignation Rev. H. G. Bryant, a Wake Forest student, supplied for the remainder of the year 1913. Then again in 1914 Rev. Mr. Nelson accepted the work and was pastor until the close of 1916. Rev. J. U. Teague followed next, preaching less than two years.

Rev. S. L. Morgan, of the Henderson church, supplied most of the time during the years 1919 and 1920. In the spring of 1921 Dr. W. R. Cullom the second time became pastor.

The pastors, then, to summarize, that have served in all these years in the ups and downs of the church and have striven to advance the Kingdom of God in this community, are: Messrs. Beachum, Carroll, Stradley, Underwood, Marsh, Hill, Hunter, Stevens, Nelson, Teague and Cullom. All except the last four have passed on into the Great Beyond.

Dr. Marsh, Rev. J. A. Stradley and Dr. Cullom are the three pastors who have served the church for the longest periods of time.

The men who have been deacons are:

L. R. Parham	J. U. Fleming
S. S. Hicks	J. L. Capps
Thos. Patterson	W. N. Critcher
G. W. Ellington	P. E. Wilkinson
J. E. Callis	J. T. Holloway
S. Otho Wilson	E. C. Parrott
C. G. Patterson	R. M. Boyd
G. W. Wright	Thomas Lemay

The following have served as clerks of the church:

Elba Parrish	P. E. Rowland
J. L. Wright	H. M. Wright
G. W. Wright	P. C. Parham
E. T. Parham	E. C. Parrott
J. H. Parham	J. L. Capps
C. P. Wright	Mrs. H. B. Parrott

#### LIST OF MEMBERS

Eugene Abbott	O. C. Currin
Charlie Allgood	George Currin
L. R. Ball	Batt Ellington
William Ball	Boyd Ellington
Dodson Ball	Sidney Ellington
Adrian Ball	Roger Ellington
Ben F. Ball	Wallace Ellington
William Ball	William Ellington
Harold Bradsher	Jonas Ellington
L. F. Boyd	Herbert Ellington
R. M. Boyd	Bud Ellington
Hubert M. Capps	J. U. Fleming
Gilbert Capps	Goode Fleming
J. McElree Capps	James Fleming
Otho Chappell	Cleveland Greenway



Willie Clopton  
 I. D. Hart  
 Dorsey Fleming Hart  
 Harvey C. Harris  
 Sam Hester  
 John Holloway  
 S. T. LeMay  
 Charles L. LeMay  
 Thos. Benton Parham  
 Jasper Wayland Parham  
 J. R. Parham  
 A. G. Parrott  
 Carl Parrott  
 Frank Parrott  
 Garland Parrott  
 Nelson Parrott  
 Wilson Parrott  
 Eugene C. Parrott  
 Elbert Parrott  
 Graham Parrott  
 Titus Parrott  
 H. B. Parrott  
 A. C. Perry  
 Alley Roberson  
 Edward Lee Roberson  
 Roger Roberson  
 James Satterwhite  
 Lenwood Short  
 John Short  
 Wilson Thomas  
 Edward Thomas  
 Earle Wade  
 Charlie Weaver  
 Guy Wells  
 H. B. Wells  
 Paul Wells  
 P. E. Wilkinson  
 A. P. Wilkinson

Elam Greenway  
 Lyman Wilkinson  
 Alpheus Woodlief  
 Tom Woodlief  
 Tom Williford  
 Ira Williford  
 G. S. Wright  
 Carlyle Wright  
 Lathan Wright  
 Norris Wright  
 Mrs. Lessie Abbott  
 Elizabeth Abbott  
 Clara Mae Allgood  
 Fannie Allgood  
 Sallie Allgood  
 Mrs. L. R. Ball  
 Mrs. Inez Ball Currin  
 Estelle Ball  
 Mrs. Isabel Ball Hedgepeth  
 Marie Ball  
 Mrs. Maud Critcher Ball  
 Mrs. Thelma Ball Brooks  
 Mrs. Helen Capps Bobbitt  
 Mrs. L. F. Boyd  
 Mrs. R. M. Boyd  
 Mrs. Mozelle Holloway  
 Chappell  
 Leona Clopton  
 Estelle Clopton  
 Mrs. Hugh Currin  
 Bernice Currin  
 Mrs. Tazzie Currin Daniel  
 Mrs. Sallie Wells Edwards  
 Mrs. Drewry Ellington  
 Nola Ellington  
 Mrs. J. E. Ellington  
 Myra Ellington  
 Mrs. Ethel Ellington White

Bailey Wilkinson  
 E. B. Wilkinson  
 Mrs. Catherine Ellington  
     Critchler  
 Mrs. Stella Hart Ellington  
 Mrs. Sadie Ellington  
 Mrs. Pauline Ellington  
     VanDyke  
 Thornton Elliott  
 Willie Lee Elliott  
 Mrs. J. U. Fleming  
 Miss Lottie Grissom  
 Mrs. C. C. Greenway  
 Mrs. Johnny Greenway  
 Elizabeth Greenway  
 Mrs. Hayden Glover  
 Mrs. Hunter F. Harris  
 Louise Harris  
 Mrs. Ferol F. Hart  
 Isabel Hart  
 Mildred Hart  
 Mrs. Pearl Hester  
 Miss Pattie Hester  
 Miss Lucy Hester  
 Mrs. H. B. Hicks  
 Mrs. Verna F. LeMay  
 Annie Marshall LeMay  
 Mrs. Daisy K. Parham  
 Mrs. Ellen Parrott  
 Mrs. A. G. Parrott  
 Mrs. Dorothy Parrott Nutt  
 Edna Earle Parrott

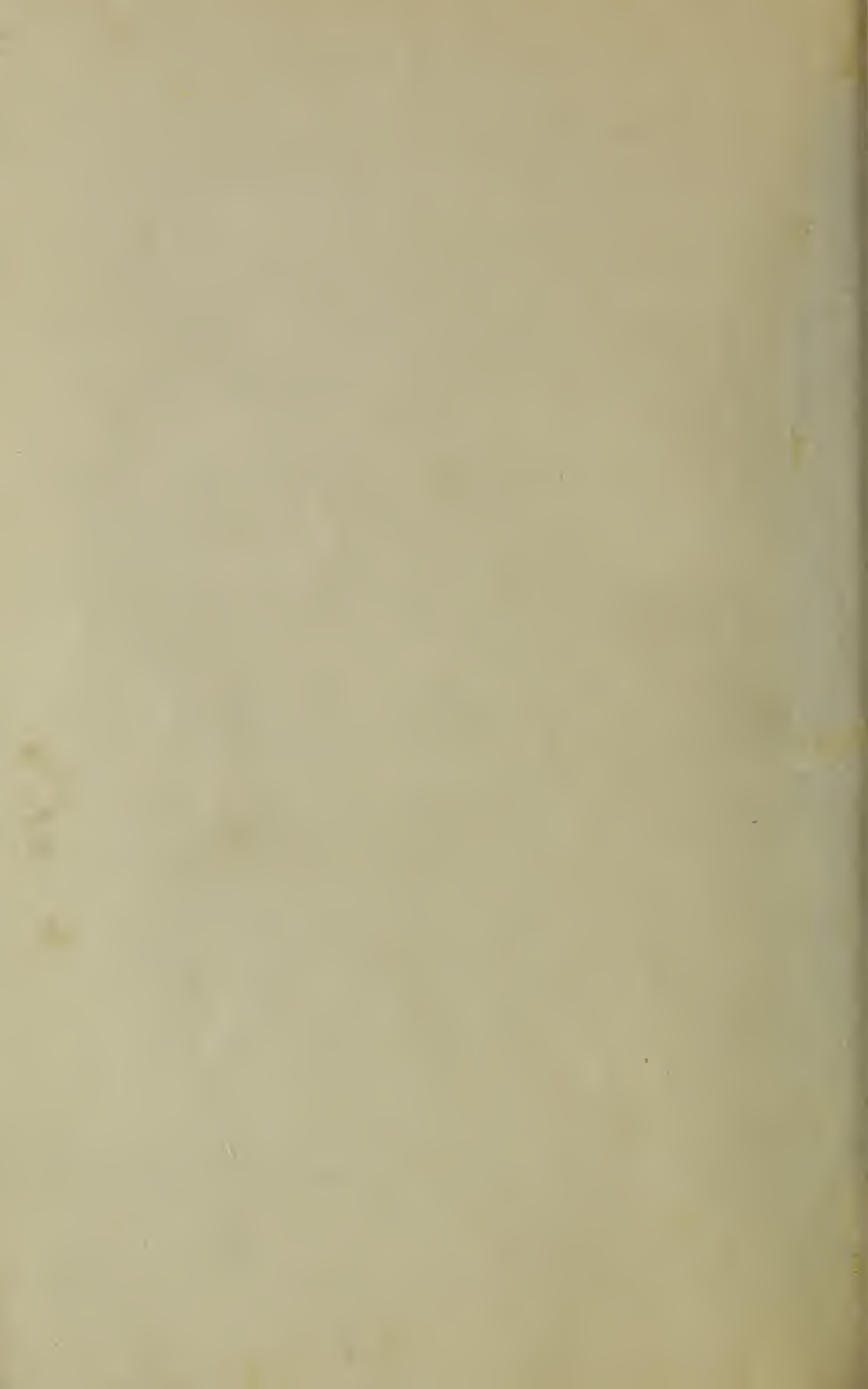
Mrs. J. M. Ellington  
 Miss Annie Ellington  
 Mrs. Sarah Wilson Parrott  
 Mrs. E. C. Parrott  
 Mrs. Louise Parrott Hobgood  
 Mrs. H. B. Parrott  
 Julia Parrott  
 Chloe Parrott  
 Mrs. A. C. Perry  
 Miss Lizzie Perry  
 Miss Mary Perry  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Roberson  
 Maude Roberson  
 Mrs. Sallie Short  
 Mrs. Ola F. Satterwhite  
 Janie Satterwhite  
 Mrs. Maud Hobgood Stanley  
 Mrs. B. W. Thomas  
 Mrs. Alma Thomas Parrott  
 Eunice Wells  
 Mrs. Frauline Wells Hicks  
 Mrs. Lucy Wells Jones  
 Mrs. Geneva Weaver  
 Minnie Weaver  
 Mrs. Rufus Woodlief  
 Mary E. Williford  
 Martha Williford  
 Mrs. P. E. Wilkinson  
 Miss Eva J. Wilkinson  
 Mrs. A. P. Wilkinson  
 Mrs. Sallie M. Wilkinson

*Miss Elizabeth Greenwood*









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